

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 01907 101209Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 COME-00 L-03 OMB-01 AID-05 /052 W

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R 092029Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9051

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 1907

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UY

SUBJECT: URUGUAY PRESS COVERAGE OF ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES  
OF U.S. COMPANIES

REF: (A) STATE 079470/MVD 1233 (C) STATE 120843 (D) MVD 1888

1. THE THREE MAJOR DAILIES IN URUGUAY RAN STORIES JUNE 8 AND 9 ON THE F-16 SALE IN EUROPE AND THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF NORTHROP. THE CASUAL READER OF THESE ITEMS WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN DETERMINING THAT THE SALE OF GENERAL DYNAMIC'S F-16 WAS NOT THE RESULT OF MACHINATIONS BY NORTHROP, SINCE BOTH THE DALE AND THE REVELATIONS BEING MADE IN THE U.S. SENATE, WERE WOVEN INTO A SINGLE STORY. JUNE 8 EL PAIS, FOR EXAMPLE, HEADLINED QUOTE MIRAGE VS. YF-SCANDAL OVER US COMBAT JET UNQUOTE AND DEVOTED A LARGE PORTION OF ITS FRONT PAGE TO THE SALE AND THE SCANDAL.

2. EL PAIS FOLLOWED WITH AN EDITORIAL ON JUNE 9 IN WHICH THE WRITER THEORIZED THAT THE SALE TO BELGIUM WAS MOTIVATED BY POLITICAL AND MILITARY FACTORS, THUS DOWNPLAYING THE NEWSPAPER'S EARLIER TREATMENT OF THE SALE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CRIMES, ALLEGATIONS, BUSINESS FIRMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MONTEV01907  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750202-0028  
**From:** MONTEVIDEO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 079470/MVD, 75 1233, 75 STATE 120843, 75 MVD 1888  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 MAR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** URUGUAY PRESS COVERAGE OF ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF U.S. COMPANIES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UY, NORTHROP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006